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Amendment to the Claims

A detailed list of all claims under examination is set out below. Please amend claim 30 as shown below in marked form:

1. (withdrawn): A method for coating a filamentous article comprising applying a voided or otherwise substantially uneven coating to at least some of the exposed portion of a filamentous article and passing the substantially unevenly-coated filamentous article through an improvement station comprising a plurality of coating-wetted rolls that contact and re-contact the wet coating at different positions along the length of the filamentous article, wherein the number or periods of the rolls improve the uniformity of the coating.
2. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 1 wherein the voided or otherwise substantially uneven coating is applied by dripping the coating liquid onto the filamentous article or onto a roll.
3. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 1 wherein the voided or otherwise substantially uneven coating is applied by spraying the coating liquid onto the filamentous article or onto a roll.
4. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 1 wherein the substantially uneven coating is periodically applied and the application period is adjusted to improve the uniformity of the coating.
5. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 1 comprising at least three rolls.
6. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 1 wherein the rolls have the same period of contact with the filamentous article.
7. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 1 wherein the rolls do not all have the same period of contact with the filamentous article.
8. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 7 wherein the rolls all have different periods of contact with the filamentous article.

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9. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 7 wherein the rotational periods of the rolls are not periodically related.
10. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 7 wherein the filamentous article has at least five contacts with the rolls following application of the substantially uneven coating.
11. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 7 wherein the filamentous article has at least eight contacts with the rolls following application of the substantially uneven coating.
12. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 1 wherein the filamentous article has at least 13 contacts with the rolls following application of the substantially uneven coating.
13. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 1 wherein the filamentous article has a direction of motion and the direction of rotation of at least one of the rolls is the same as the direction of motion.
14. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 13 wherein the direction of rotation of at least two of the rolls is the same as the direction of motion.
15. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 13 wherein the direction of rotation of all the rolls is the same as the direction of motion.
16. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 15 wherein there is substantially no slippage between the rolls and the filamentous article.
17. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 1 wherein at least one of the rolls is grooved.
18. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 1 wherein all of the rolls are grooved.
19. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 1 wherein a voided coating is applied to the filamentous article and converted by contact with the rolls to a void-free coating.

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20. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 1 wherein the coating is converted to have an average caliper from 1 to about 10 micrometers.
21. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 1 wherein the coating is converted to have an average caliper from 1 to about 5 micrometers.
22. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 1 wherein the filamentous article comprises an optical fiber.
23. (withdrawn): A method for coating a filamentous article comprising applying a voided or otherwise substantially uneven coating to a rotating substrate, contacting the coating with a plurality of coating-wetted rolls that contact and re-contact the coating at different positions around the circumference of the rotating substrate, and transferring the coating to the filamentous article.
24. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 23 wherein at least three rolls contact the wet coating on the rotating substrate.
25. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 24 wherein the rolls have different periods of contact.
26. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 23 wherein at least five rolls contact the wet coating on the rotating substrate.
27. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 23 wherein the coating is applied as a pattern of stripes.
28. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 23 wherein the rolls comprise disks whose peripheral edges contact a coating-wetted groove in the rotating substrate.
29. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 23 wherein the rotating substrate comprises a transfer belt.
30. (currently amended): A device comprising a coating station having a non-uniform applicator that directly or indirectly applies a substantially uneven coating to at least some of the exposed portion of a filamentous article such that along a 1 meter length of the article the coating has voids or low spots whose minimum thickness is less than one-half the average coating thickness along that length, and an improvement station

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comprising two or more rotating rolls that periodically contact and re-contact the wet coating at different positions along the length of the filamentous article, wherein the number or periods of the rolls improve the uniformity of the coating.

31. (original): A device according to claim 30 wherein the coating station drips the coating liquid onto the filamentous article or onto a roll.
32. (original): A device according to claim 30 wherein the coating station sprays the coating liquid onto the filamentous article or onto a roll.
33. (original): A device according to claim 30 wherein the coating station periodically applies the coating liquid and the application period can be adjusted to improve the uniformity of the coating.
34. (original): A device according to claim 30 comprising at least three rolls.
35. (original): A device according to claim 30 wherein the rolls have the same period of contact with the filamentous article.
36. (original): A device according to claim 30 wherein the rolls do not all have the same period of contact with the filamentous article.
37. (original): A device according to claim 36 wherein the rolls all have different periods of contact with the filamentous article.
38. (original): A device according to claim 36 wherein the rotational periods of the rolls are not periodically related.
39. (original): A device according to claim 36 wherein the filamentous article has at least five contacts with the rolls following application of the substantially uneven coating.
40. (original): A device according to claim 36 wherein the filamentous article has at least eight contacts with the rolls following application of the substantially uneven coating.
41. (original): A device according to claim 30 wherein the filamentous article has at least 13 contacts with the rolls following application of the substantially uneven coating.

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42. (original): A device according to claim 30 wherein the filamentous article has a direction of motion and the direction of rotation of at least one of the rolls is the same as the direction of motion.
43. (original): A device according to claim 42 wherein the direction of rotation of at least two of the rolls is the same as the direction of motion.
44. (original): A device according to claim 42 wherein the direction of rotation of all the rolls is the same as the direction of motion.
45. (original): A device according to claim 44 wherein there is substantially no slippage between the rolls and the filamentous article.
46. (original): A device according to claim 30 wherein at least one of the rolls is grooved.
47. (original): A device according to claim 30 wherein all of the rolls are grooved.
48. (original): A device according to claim 30 wherein a voided coating is applied to the filamentous article and converted by contact with the rolls to a void-free coating.
49. (original): A device according to claim 30 wherein the coating is converted to have an average caliper from 1 to about 10 micrometers.
50. (original): A device according to claim 30 wherein the coating is converted to have an average caliper from 1 to about 5 micrometers.
51. (withdrawn): A device comprising a coating station that applies a substantially uneven coating to a rotating substrate, an improvement station comprising two or more rotating rolls that periodically contact and re-contact the wet coating at different positions along the length of the rotating substrate whereby the coating becomes more uniform, and a transfer station for transferring the resulting more uniform coating to a filamentous article.
52. (withdrawn): A device according to claim 51 comprising at least three rolls that contact the wet coating on the rotating substrate.

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53. (withdrawn): A device according to claim 52 wherein the rolls have different periods of contact.
54. (withdrawn): A device according to claim 51 comprising at least five rolls that contact the wet coating on the rotating substrate.
55. (withdrawn): A device according to claim 51 wherein the coating station applies a pattern of stripes.
56. (withdrawn): A device according to claim 51 wherein the rolls comprise disks whose peripheral edges contact a coating-wetted groove in the rotating substrate.
57. (withdrawn): A device according to claim 51 wherein the rotating substrate comprises a transfer belt.